

August 2005
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol
Major Richard Varner

Overview

Crashes in August were up in all categories except fatal crashes. Total crashes increased by 33.4% over last year and by 6.6% over last month. The majority of the increase in August crashes occurred in the Reno urban area which experienced a 14.3% increase and the Carson/Tahoe/ Minden area which experienced a 7.4% increase.

Overall field enforcement was up 7.4% in August as compared to July and was up significantly by 24.1% over the same time last year. DUI arrests from crashes decreased by 14.3%, DUI arrests prior to crashes increased by 7.4%, and hazardous moving violations increased by 31.8% as compared to last month. Of particular note is that Reno Urban traffic enforcement was up by 12.6% over last month and was up by 48.3% as compared to the same period last year.

The Commercial Enforcement Section conducted 13 check-site operations that generated 71 level I inspections and multiple level II/III inspection. Overall, 913 level II/III inspections were completed during check site operations and roving enforcement activities. The section is beginning the last month of the Federal Fiscal Year and must complete 518 level II/III inspections to meet region goals. Currently, the Northern Command has 45 more level I inspections than is required, however, 111 trucks must be weighed on the interstate system to meet the requirements of the size and weight enforcement plan. The annual commercial enforcement goals are well within reach and will be met by the end of September.

The Northern Command airplane conducted a total of five enforcement missions during August which resulted in a total of 225 violations. It should be noted that the aircraft was out of service for approximately half of the month for an engine, propeller and propeller governor overhaul.

There are four major events planned in September which will impact the Northern Command. These include Burning Man, the Reno Hot Air Balloon Races, Street Vibrations, and the annual Sparks Nugget Rib Cook-off.

The Northern Command will continue to target the accident causing violations in the high crash areas during the high crash times in an attempt to reduce the number of crashes.

The men and women of the Northern Command are to be commended for a job well done.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	August 2005		August 2004	% Change		July 2005	% Change
Total Crashes	439		329	33.4%		412	6.6%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	287		210	36.7%		269	6.7%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	147		115	27.8%		137	7.3%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	5		4	25.0%		6	-16.7%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	18		16	12.5%		21	-14.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	7		6	16.7%		5	40.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	3		1	200.0%		0	300.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		0	200.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		2	-50.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		2	-50.0%		3	-66.7%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	28		15	86.7%		31	-9.7%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	23		10	130.0%		24	-4.2%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		5	0.0%		6	-16.7%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.1%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.1%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 71.4%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 6.4%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

Crashes were up in all categories except fatal crashes. Total crashes increased by 33.4% over last year and by 6.6% over last month.

Reno and Carson areas continue to have significant amounts of road construction which has influenced the crash rate. Ongoing construction in the "Spaghetti Bowl" and North McCarran/Clear Acre area create significant traffic problems in the Reno area with major congestion occurring during the commuter traffic hours.

Reno Urban Traffic experienced a 14.3% increase in traffic crashes over last month. The Reno urban area continues to experience unprecedented growth however staffing levels failed to keep up. As traffic crashes continue to increase in the Reno area over the past few years, staffing levels have been reduced significantly. Reno Urban Traffic trends indicate the majority of day shift crashes occurring on Mondays and Wednesdays during the morning or lunch hour commute. Swing shift crash trends indicate higher crash rate on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the late afternoon commuter hours.

The majority of Reno urban traffic crashes continue to occur in the McCarran loop and during commuter hours. Urban traffic is looking at creative ways to increase the officer presence such as using "Drone cars" during the day as well as deploying the radar trailer in high speed or accident locations. Reno Troopers will also continue using the ADAPT truck to target aggressive drivers.

Fernley/Fallon area experienced a drop in overall crashes. Total crashes decreased by 17.2%. There were two fatal accidents in the Fernley/Fallon area this month.

Carson/Tahoe/Minden experienced an increase in crashes of 7.4% from 122 to 131 crashes. The CTM area also had two fatal accidents this month one involving a commercial vehicle.

Troopers will continue to work accident reduction and prevention programs, targeting the accident causing violations in the high accident locations during the high accident times. Accident causing violations remain following too close as a significant number of crashes are rear-end collisions.



FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	August 2005		August 2004	% Change		July 2005	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	18		19	-5.3%		21	-14.3%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	87		76	14.5%		81	7.4%
Other Arrests	365		342	6.7%		420	-13.1%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	189		159	18.9%		189	0.0%
Speed violations	2084		2279	-8.6%		2094	-0.5%
Hazardous moving violations	858		739	16.1%		651	31.8%
Occupant restraint violations *	386		309	24.9%		308	25.3%
Total violations [above violations included]	5604		4517	24.1%		5218	7.4%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	48		15	220.0%		52	-7.7%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	41		28	46.4%		47	-12.8%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	987		537	83.8%		1114	-11.4%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	2		0	200.0%		1	100.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	327		250	30.8%		442	-26.0%
Total safety violations -- repair order	3005		1216	147.1%		3558	-15.5%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	154		67	129.9%		197	-21.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	115		30	283.3%		94	22.3%
Total school buses inspected	208		136	52.9%		308	-32.5%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	39		23	69.6%		127	-69.3%
Total trucks weighed	632		152	315.8%		209	202.4%
Total overweight citations	40		14	185.7%		39	2.6%
Total dyed fuel inspections	687		382	79.8%		820	-16.2%
Total dyed fuel citations	4		3	33.3%		7	-42.9%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Overall enforcement was up 7.4% overall and were up significantly by 24.1% over the same time last year. Northern Command Troopers continue to put forth an excellent level of productivity despite the significant staffing shortages.

Reno Urban traffic activity was up by 12.6% over last month and was up by 48.3% over last year. Fallon/Fernley traffic activity was up by 3.2% over last month and also increased 19.9% over last year. Carson/Tahoe/Minden enforcement trends were also up in both comparisons at 2.7% over last year and 7.5% over last month.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

During the month of August, the Commercial Enforcement Section assisted the Traffic Section on 29 collisions. 13 of these collisions involved commercial motor vehicles.

The Commercial Enforcement Section conducted 13 check-site operations that generated 71 level I inspections and multiple level II/III inspection. Overall, 913 level II/III inspections were completed during check site operations and roving enforcement activities. Pre-Pass was not used during check site operations due to the continued construction on westbound IR80 near Mustang.

The Northern Command was recently allocated rollover funding for strike-team enforcement efforts. Ten strike team operations were conducted which generated 166 inspections, 483 Mechanical Repair Orders, 38 citations, 31 Out of Service Vehicles and 16 Out of Service Drivers.

The Commercial Enforcement Section is beginning its last month of the Federal Fiscal Year and must complete 518 level II/III inspections to meet region goals. Currently, The Northern Command has 45 more level I inspections than is required. In addition, 111 trucks must be weighed on the interstate system to meet the requirements of the size and weight enforcement plan. It should be noted that the annual commercial enforcement goals are well within reach and will be completed by next month.

Each trooper who is certified to conduct commercial motor vehicle inspections must complete 32 level I inspections per year in order to maintain Federal certification. At this time, there are only three troopers in the Northern Command that are short the 32 inspection requirement. These three troopers currently work swing shift and will obtain the required number of inspections prior to the end of the Federal Fiscal Year.

During the month of August, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspectors (CVSI) began the fall bi-annual school bus inspection program. 208 school buses were inspected and 39 were placed out of service.

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command airplane flew a total of 25.1 hours during the month of August. All five scheduled enforcement missions were flown for a total of 225 violations.

Two prisoner transports were accomplished; one from Reno to Winnemucca and one from Ely to Carson City.

The aircraft was taken out of service August 12 for an engine, propeller and propeller governor overhaul.

Below is a comparative summary of N111HP flight operations in the Northern and Central commands for the month of August, 2005.

Total Hours Flown	2005	2004	Change
Time over sites.....	15.2	19.3	- 21%
Time enroute to sites.....	3.8	8.8	- 57%
Prisoner Transports.....(2)	5.6	(5) 17.5	- 68%
Personnel Transports...(0)		(1) 4.4	
Court5		
Total:	25.1	50.0	- 50%
Enforcement Missions Flown:	5	7	- 29%
Total Enforcement Activity:	225	268	- 16%
Activity per Flight Hour:	14.8	13.9	6%

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Public Relations Coordinator assisted with the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association "lock-up" which was held at the Claim Jumper restaurant in Reno. Local businessman and women were transported to a mock jail where they had to make phone calls to acquire bail money. The day long event yielded over \$135,000.00 and television and radio media were promoting the event.

The division Honor Guard also hosted their 5th annual golf tournament in Carson City on the 19th. This was a fun and successful event with 3 new large sponsors this year to include Mercedes-Benz of Reno, Outback Steakhouse, and Valley Chevrolet of Carson City.

The Department of Public Safety, for the first time, was represented as a total department at the Nevada State Fair. The DPS mobile command center was displayed as well as 2 NHP division vehicles. The crash dummies, Vince and Larry, made an appearance and the rollover simulator trailer was demonstrated as well.

The DPS public information officers also attended the National Information Officers Association conference which was held in Sparks. The 4 day event hosted speakers from around the country with special attention to public relations and departmental image.

In addition to the above mentioned events, we continue to do live daily traffic reports on News Channel 8, KUUB 94.5 FM, as well as the 1 hour weekly radio show "Trooper Talk", which is broadcasted on Wednesday's at 4:00pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	August 2005	August 2004	% Change	July 2005	% Change
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	514	305	68.52%	432	18.98%
Arrest Reports Processed	162	185	-12.43%	201	-19.40%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	13	Unknown	Unknown	17	-23.53%
Office Accident Reports Taken	9	26	-65.38%	24	-62.50%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	689	681	1.17%	574	20.03%
Warrants Entered	437	380	15.00%	258	69.38%
Warrants Cleared	525	774	-32.17%	670	-21.64%
Warrants Validated	238	407	-41.52%	175	36.00%
Citations Processed	4311	3447	25.06%	3932	9.64%
COMMUNICATION CENTER	August 2005	August 2004	% Change	July 2005	% Change
Radio Transmissions	115590	89587	+29%	92487	+25%
CAD incidents	12948	9185	+41%	12654	+2.3%

FRONT OFFICE

Four hours of training were provided to the new AAIL in IFS Timesheets. 34.90 hours of overtime were used for coverage of a vacant position and sick leave. Backlogged citation entry is current through March 6th. Work hours lost increased from July by 40%. This is due to an AAIL being on sick leave for the entire month of August. This will continue as it is unsure when she will return to full duty. This accounts for part of the large increase in sick leave.

COURT WARRANTS

The staff is current with entering warrants through the month of June. Warrants received increased by 20%, while validations increased by 36%. There will be a vacant AAIL position as of September 2, 2005. An AAIL from the front office will be utilized in the warrants section three days a week to subsidize the workload. This is in an effort to prevent another backlog situation with warrant entry. The citation clerk will remain stationed in the warrants section to answer phones and produce clears as well.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher positions. However, with 3 personnel actively in training, the Center remains effectively down 5 positions. A new PSD I will be joining us in the middle of September and interviews are being scheduled for another 30 applicants.

Total work hours lost actually decreased by 13.6% since last month primarily due to a decrease in sick and holiday leave. It increased by 65.9% from the previous year due to a rise in sick and annual leave.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 58% and paid overtime increased by 6.8% when compared to the same period last year. Overtime as a whole decreased by 5.3% when

compared to the same period last year and increased by 14.6% when compared to last month. The decrease from last year is primarily due to the increased use of flexible scheduling and day off trading. The increase over last month is primarily due to annual leave and vacant position coverage. Given that the center is down so many positions combined with the August special events, such a small increase in overtime is commendable proof that the shift supervisors are doing a great job with scheduling. The coverage of vacant positions accounted for 39% of the overtime followed by 31% for annual leave, and 13% for sick leave.

Stats:

Radio transmissions increased by 29% over this period last year and 25% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 41% over last year and 2.3% since last month. The primary reason for this is likely the increased use of radio air by the allied units. With the allied agencies using the radios as they should, we are now gaining a more realistic view of the actual number of units on duty at any given time.



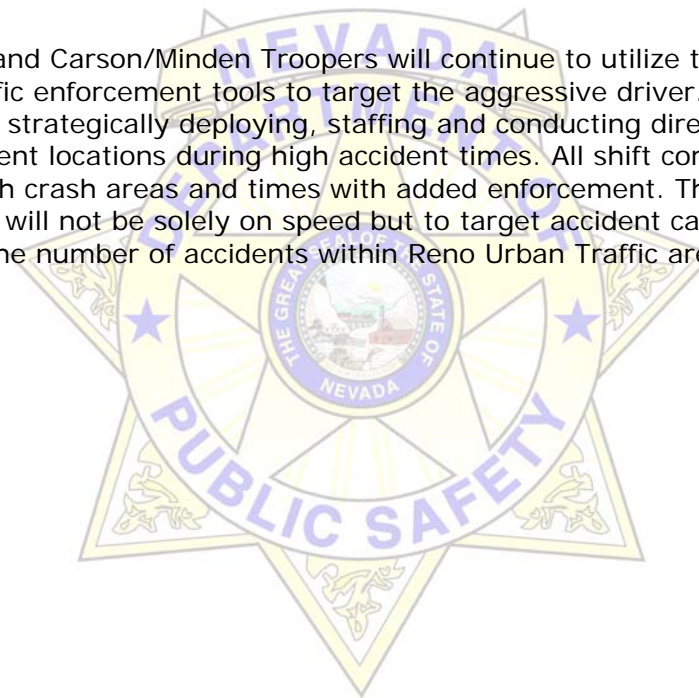
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Four major events are scheduled for the Reno Sparks area during the month of September. The first weekend is the Annual Burning Man celebration in the Black Rock Desert during the Labor Day holiday. Burning Man traditionally attracts more than 30,000 people to the Playa outside of Gerlach Nevada. In addition to the normal increase in traffic due to various holiday travel plans, the annual Nugget Rib Cook off is celebrated in downtown Sparks. This 5 day event also attracts tens of thousands to the downtown Sparks area.

The following weekend is the Hot Air Balloon races celebrated in Rancho San Rafael Park. Although there are additional visitors to the area, this event does not traditionally affect area traffic patterns. The Annual Street Vibrations celebration will be celebrated from September 21st through the 25th. This event attracts a large crowd of motorcycle enthusiasts. Traditionally, the urban area experiences a sharp increase in accidents and arrests. We will be staffed with extra manpower to handle the additional accidents and arrests.

PLANS:

Reno Urban Traffic and Carson/Minden Troopers will continue to utilize the ADAPT vehicles as well as existing traffic enforcement tools to target the aggressive driver. We will attempt to reduce accidents by strategically deploying, staffing and conducting directed enforcement efforts in high accident locations during high accident times. All shift commanders are addressing their high crash areas and times with added enforcement. The focus of our enforcement efforts will not be solely on speed but to target accident causing violations and attempt to reduce the number of accidents within Reno Urban Traffic area of responsibility.



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